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report on pay and allowances  
in the Hungarian People's Army, as of November 1956. Although somewhat  
fragmentary, the information is thought to be of value.

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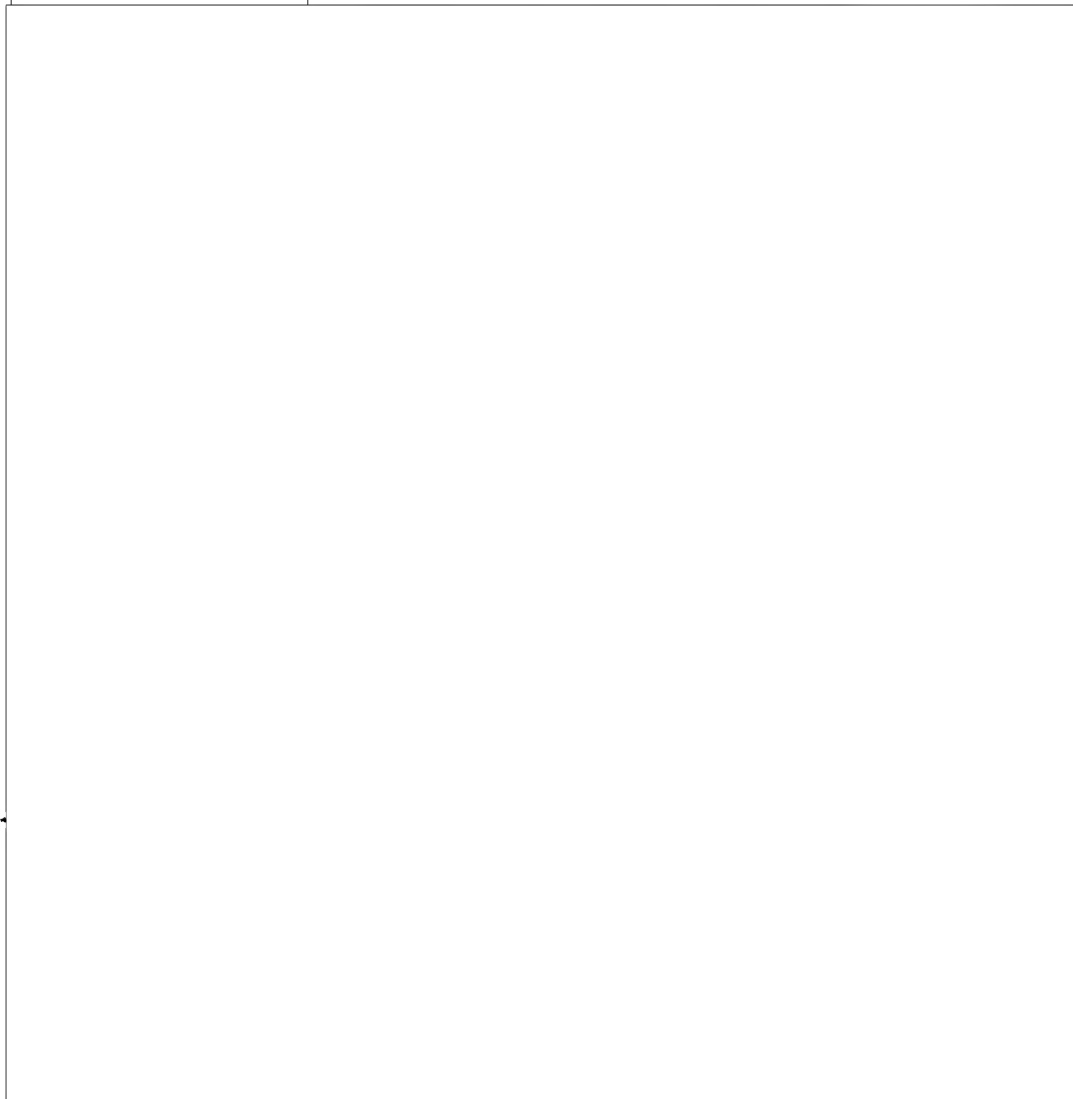
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PAY AND ALLOWANCES IN THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

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-2-

## PAY AND ALLOWANCES IN THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

Introduction

Pay, or more specifically a salary, in the Hungarian Army is paid only to commissioned officers and career non-commissioned officers (továbbszolgáló tiszt-helyettesek). 1. The term "spending money" (zsold) best describes the monthly pay received by all drafted soldiers and NCOs. The salary of an officer or career NCO consists of three separate sums based on: base pay, assignment pay and longevity pay.

[redacted] the greatest personnel shortage existed in the career NCO ranks which seldom exceeded 80 percent of the strength called for in Tables of Organization. The officers corps averaged 90 to 95 percent of Table of Organization strength. Draftee strength early in each training year was, in theory, at full strength; later in the year, because of separations and other releases, the strength dropped to an estimated 93 percent.

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1. Base Pay (Törzsilletmény)

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[redacted] the various commissioned grades received base pay as follows:

## a. Officers

Junior lieutenant (alhadnagy) -	approximately 410 Forint monthly
Lieutenant (hadnagy)-----	approximately 450 Forint monthly
Senior lieutenant (főhadnagy) --	approximately 480 Forint monthly
Captain (százados) -----	approximately 530 <sup>2</sup> Forint monthly
Major (őrnagy) -----	approximately 570 Forint monthly
Lieutenant colonel (alezredes) -	approximately 620 Forint monthly
Colonel (ezredes) -----	approximately 670 Forint monthly
Brigadier general (vezérőrnagy)-	approximately 750 Forint monthly
Major general (altábornagy) ----	approximately 850 Forint monthly
Lieutenant general (vezérezredes)	approximately 950 Forint monthly

## b. Career NCOs

The base pay for career NCOs was as follows:

Corporal (tizedes) -----	approximately 240 Forint monthly
Sergeant (szakaszvezető) -----	approximately 280 Forint monthly
Sergeant first class (őrmester)-	approximately 320 Forint monthly
Master Sergeant (törzsőrmester)-	approximately 360 Forint monthly

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

-3-

## c. Draftees

The monthly pay for draftees (sorkatonák) of all enlisted ranks was approximately the following:

Private, E-1 and E-2 (Honvéd) -----	90 Forint monthly
PFC (Őrvezető) -----	100 Forint monthly
Corporal (Tizedes) -----	120 Forint monthly
Sergeant (Szakaszvezető) -----	150 Forint monthly
Sergeant first class (Őrmester) -----	180 Forint monthly
Master Sergeant (Törzsőrmester) -----	220-240 Forint monthly

2. Assignment Pay (Beosztási illetmény)

All officer assignments were designated in Tables of Organization, calling for a designated assignment pay grade, numbered 1 through 21. The following table represents  the system of assignment pay grades:

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<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Monthly Pay (in Forints)</u>
1	Chiefs of Main Group Directorates	Approximately 3,000 - 3,500
2	Corps Commander; Chiefs of Group Directorates	Unknown
3	Unknown	Unknown
4	Division Commander	Approximately 2,400
5	Unknown	Unknown
6	Division Chief of Staff	Unknown
7	Division Chief of Artillery; Regiment Commanders	Unknown
8	Unknown	Unknown
9	Chief of Division Operations Section; Regimental Chief of Staff	Approximately 1,900
10	Chief Political Officer or Deputy Commander of a Regiment	Unknown
11	Regimental Counter-Intelligence Officer	Unknown
12	Deputy Chief of Division Operations Section; Battalion Commander	Approximately 1,530
13	Chief Signal Officer of a Regiment	Unknown
14	(Assignment to) Division Operations Section	Unknown
15	(Assignment to) Division Operations Section; Company or Battery Commander	Approximately 1,200

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-4-

50X1-HUM

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Monthly Pay (in Forints)</u>
16	(Assignment to) Division Operations Section; Company or Battery Commander	Unknown
17	Company or Battery Commander	Unknown
18	Unknown	Unknown
19	Separate Platoon Commanders	Unknown
20	Platoon Leader	Unknown
21	Platoon Leader	Approximately 800

Reserve officers who were recalled for short periods of active duty did not receive any assignment pay; they were paid the salary designated for their particular grade, plus an amount approximating 75 percent of their civilian salary. This last-mentioned amount was paid by the individual's employer.

Career NCOs also received assignment pay. [redacted] amounts received by career NCOs ranged from 500 to 800 Forint.

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### 3. Longevity Pay (Szolgálati pótlék)

#### a. Longevity Pay Computing

Longevity was computed three ways:

Personnel entering active duty before age 20 were paid longevity from date of entry on active duty.

Individuals with pre-1945 (Horthy Army) service could receive credit for all or any part of such service. Each case was determined individually.

Officer personnel entering active duty after age 20 were paid longevity as of their twentieth birthday. For example, a 35-year-old captain, newly commissioned and arrived on active duty, received longevity for 15 years service. This method of computation was used to "reward" Hungarian Communist Party members who were called on active duty. This method was considered unjust and was extremely unpopular with career officers.

#### b. Longevity Pay Increases

Officers and career NCOs received longevity increases every five years, as follows:

<u>Years Service</u>	<u>Longevity Increase (Approximately)</u>
0 - 5	None
5 - 10	2 percent of combined Base and Assignment Pay.
10 - 15	3 percent of Base, Assignment and Longevity Pay.
15 - 20	4 percent of Base, Assignment and Longevity Pay.
20 - 30	6 percent of Base, Assignment and Longevity Pay.

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-5-

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## c. Retirement Pay and Benefits

## Details of retirement pay and benefits

[redacted] an individual retiring after fifteen years service was entitled to about 50 percent of his active duty pay, with about 75 or more percent awarded those individuals who retired upon completion of 25 or more years service. [redacted] the records of officers approaching their fifteenth year received unusually close scrutiny by Defense Ministry screening boards during reduction in force determinations. Many officers were separated during reductions in force solely on the basis of budgetary considerations.

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4. Miscellaneous Allowances

## a. Drafted Personnel in the Enlisted Grades

All drafted personnel in the enlisted grades, in addition to their base "pay", were issued ten cigarettes for each day in the succeeding pay period. Drafted personnel performing duty as tank, wheeled vehicle or motorcycle drivers were paid an additional 30 to 80 Forint monthly, depending on the individual's driving qualification (3d, 2d, 1st Class or Master Driver). This premium was paid as an inducement to safe driving habits and high standards of vehicle maintenance; it was paid or withdrawn at the discretion of unit commanders.

## b. Officer Personnel

An education allowance (tudományos (végzettségi) pótlék) was paid to all officer personnel performing duties requiring utilization of skills and knowledge acquired during college or university studies. This could be in addition to assignment pay, base pay, and longevity. If the individual was serving in some technical or professional capacity, he was entitled to:

Approximately 700 Forint monthly, if a college or university graduate.

Approximately 1,000 Forint monthly, if working toward a doctorate (in Science).

Approximately 1,300 Forint monthly, if a holder of a doctorate (in Science)

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## c. Officer and Career NCO Personnel

## (1) Family Allowances

[redacted] this allowance was paid only to personnel with two or more dependents. Personnel with only a wife to support allegedly received no allowance. [redacted] sums paid as family allowances were identical with family allowances paid to civilian labor.

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-6-

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(2) Quarters Allowance

An individual, transferred for the good of the service to a station where no family quarters were available within a radius of 30 km, was entitled to a separation allowance (különelési pótdíj) not exceeding 340 Forint monthly. The amount of payment represented the individual's mess bill at the unit Officers' and NCO's Mess. This amount was determined by the local finance office, which paid the money directly to the Officers' and NCO's Mess. This allowance was not payable to individuals transferred at their own request, nor was it payable to those individuals who, for example, married a girl from a distant locale and were subsequently unable to find quarters at the husband's duty station. In this particular example, the military took the attitude that the military member should have married a local girl, who would probably already have had quarters. Further, this separation allowance was not paid for period on leave or in a TDY or per diem status.

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(3) Assignment Pay Grades

If, through no fault of his own, a career NCO was placed in a duty assignment calling for a pay grade lower than the one to which otherwise entitled, he was eligible to receive the difference between the two pay (assignment) grades.

(4) Temporary Duty and Detached Service

Temporary Duty and Detached Service Allowances (vezényelési pótdíj), in the amount of 14 Forint per day, were paid to officers and career NCOs temporarily attached to a unit (or garrison) other than the parent unit or permanent station. Eligible personnel received either per diem, or the temporary duty allowance, but not both.

d. All Personnel

(1) Hazardous Duty

All personnel performing duty as parachutists, flight crew members, demolitions and explosives handling, treating or in close contact with infectious or contagious diseases, or working with toxic and/or radioactive substance were entitled to hazardous duty pay (veszélyességi pótdíj) ranging from about 200 to 800 Forint monthly.

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(2) Per Diem

Per diem (napdíj) was paid to all personnel for the duration of a duty which took an individual beyond the geographical limits of the parent unit or headquarters. Officers in, or above, assignment pay grade 12 received 37 Forint daily; officers in or below pay grade 13, and career NCOs, received 31 Forint daily; and "short tour" reserve officers and all draftees received 15.50 Forint daily. Specifically, full per diem rates were paid only for those days on which the individual spent more than 12 hours in the performance of official duties; half-rates were paid for 6 to 12 hours on those duties, with no per diem payable for any time less than 6 hours. 3.

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-7-

##### 5. Financial Assistance and Dependents' Medical Care

All officers and career NCOs could request or were eligible for the following:

When good cause could be shown, and at the discretion of the commander, officers and career NCOs were eligible to apply for outright grants (egyszeri segély) not to exceed 1,200 Forint, which were made on a one time per year (per individual) basis.

Officers and career NCOs were paid a premium (szülési segély) of 800 Forint for each child (not stillborn).

Officers and career NCOs were entitled to an outright grant (temetési segély) of 500 Forint in the event of the death of a bona fide dependent.

Bona fide dependents of officers and career NCOs were entitled to free medical care and hospitalization, plus free medicaments. Dependents were also entitled to not more than two round trips annually at half fare on the railroads to any place in Hungary.

##### 6. Permanent Change of Station

The cost of transporting the family and household effects of officers and career NCOs on permanent change of station orders was borne by the army.

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##### 7. Deductions

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[redacted] deductions were made monthly for income tax (one percent of total pay), retirement deduction (three percent), and installments to liquidate debts on annual peace bond (békekötés) subscriptions. It was common practice for a commander to arbitrarily determine the amount each of his subordinates would "pledge". [redacted]

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##### 8. Reenlistment Bonus for Career NCOs

The payment of this bonus was discretionary with regiment or higher commanders and was paid only after the expiration of the enlistment. Depending upon the commander's evaluation of the individual's efficiency and conduct during the enlistment, a bonus of one to two months' total pay could be granted for a two-year enlistment and a bonus of two to three months' total pay for a four year enlistment.

##### COMMENTS:

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1. This seemingly "discriminatory" practice was founded on the assumption that, with relatively few exceptions, all reenlistees were in an NCO grade (corporal or higher) at time of (re-) enlistment. [redacted] the draftee who earnestly desired to make the army a career was given every opportunity to attend various courses of instruction, the satisfactory completion of which practically assured him of promotion

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-8-

50X1-HUM

to an NCO grade prior to the expiration of his term of compulsory service. Recruiting campaigns, as such, were directed at those men who were considered worthy of retention in the armed forces. Only those draftees were allowed to enlist, who had already proven their skill and ability or who showed definite promise of developing into enlisted leaders.

2. [ ] this amount represented his exact base pay as a captain.

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3. [ ] the time spent was arbitrarily decided by the Commander or the Finance Officer.

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